

PRESS RELEASE

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OREGON BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED FOR TAX FRAUD

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Stephen T. Parker, 45, Oregon, Wis., was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 10 months in prison and fined \$3,000 for tax fraud. Parker pleaded guilty to this charge on August 16, 2007.

Stephen Parker owned Nelson Roofing and Construction, a roofing company in Oregon, from 1994 to the present. After a one year investigation, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officials determined that Parker disguised hundreds of personal expenses as business deductions during the tax years of 2000, 2001, and 2002. For example, Parker purchased golf equipment and deducted it as roofing tools. He also purchased snowmobiles and deducted them as roofing materials.

The IRS determined that he improperly deducted \$215,000 worth of personal expenses claiming they were business deductions. At sentencing, Judge Crabb found that Parker was living a lifestyle which exceeded his means and that he raided the business proceeds to fund this lavish lifestyle.

The charges against Parker were the result of an investigation conducted by the

Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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